

**REMARKS**

Applicants acknowledge that this application is currently under final rejection. Accordingly, a Request for Continued Examination has been submitted concurrently herewith, and further examination of this application based on the amendments set forth herein is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner, Mr. DeBeradinis, for his courtesy and assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application during an interview conducted May 11, 2006. As indicated in the Interview Summary, at the interview, claims 12 and 13 were discussed, together with a proposed new claim 14. As further indicated in the Interview Summary, at the conclusion of the discussion, an agreement was reached that claims 13 and 14 distinguish over the cited prior art.

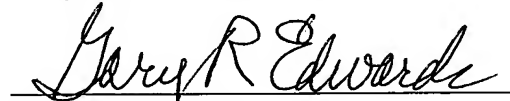
By the foregoing amendment, claims 2-4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 have been canceled, leaving only amended claim 13 and new claim 14. In view of the agreement which was reached at the interview conducted May 11, 2006, therefore, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general,

a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #080437.52924US).

Respectfully submitted,



Gary R. Edwards  
Registration No. 31,824

CROWELL & MORING LLP  
Intellectual Property Group  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844  
GRE:kms:aw  
2712619v1